Met Office announces WaterAid as its corporate charity until 2015

The Met Office is pleased to be supporting WaterAid as our chosen charity for the next three years.

The relationship was officially launched on Thursday 8th November by Isabelle Herszenhorn from WaterAid and Andy Yeatman from the Met Office. To mark the occasion, a giant piece of floor art depicting an unsafe watering hole was displayed in the main thoroughfare of the Met Office.

Laura Middleton-Padgham from WaterAid said; "We are absolutely delighted to have been chosen by Met Office employees as their corporate charity. People working for our corporate partners play a huge role in raising funds for our vital work and helping to raise awareness of the shocking fact that around 2,000 children die every day as a result of diseases caused by dirty water and poor sanitation.

"I want to say thank you to Met Office employees for sharing our vision of a world where everyone has access to safe water to drink and decent sanitation. Together we can make a real difference."

The Met Office received over 30 applications from a variety of organisations to be considered as the Met Office corporate charity, which was whittled down to a short list of three. The three short listed charities were ShelterBox , WaterAid and Computer Aid International .

These charities visited the Met Office in Exeter to present their case to employees and also made available a short manifesto.

An online vote took place, and the clear winner was WaterAid, with half of all votes cast, while ShelterBox and ComputerAid International received around a quarter of the votes each.

Rob Varley, Operations and Services Director at the Met Office said: "We're really pleased to be supporting WaterAid as our chosen charity. Access to clean water is something we take for granted in the UK, so it's very encouraging that Met Office employees want to make a difference for the 1 in 8 people around the world who don't share this luxury."

The Met Office will be looking for new ways for staff to get behind our chosen charity and raise as much for them as we can. Hopefully the first of many good ideas, a sharing table was introduced in September, which has seen staff leaving any excess fruit, vegetables and books for anyone to take in return for a donation to our corporate charity. This simple idea has raised nearly £500 in its first month.

We look forward to raising as much money and awareness for the work of WaterAid as we can over the coming years.

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